

# Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the COMMUNITY AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at the Council Chamber, St Richards House on Monday 3 June 2024 at 6.42 pm.

## PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs C Bowden – Chairman  
Councillor EJ Bowden  
Councillor PD Clements  
Councillor DI Davidson  
Councillor Mrs K Fellows  
Councillor N Franks  
Councillor RP Hopkins  
Councillor RJ Morris  
Councillor AM Sinton- (Ex officio)

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor S Brazier, M Brook, Mrs J Chaudry, GA Duffy, VP Humphries & AL Key

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors GR Brookes, J Grady, & R Deller

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none received.

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## 28. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor N Franks declared a non – pecuniary interest for the reason of the pre- election period and he being put forward for consideration towards standing as a Parliamentary Candidate. Councillor Franks did not participate in any of the voting for this meeting.

## 29. To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 April 2024

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 8 April 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30. To note the Membership and Chairmanship of the Committee, as determined at the Annual Council meeting on 13 May 2024 [*details at end of Agenda*].

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

31. To note the Membership and Chairmanship of the Grants Appraisal Committee, as determined at the Annual Council meeting on 13 May 2024 [*details with Agenda*].

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

32. Community & Amenities Grants Scheme - To confirm that any recommendations arising from the Grants Appraisal Panel Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 will be put forward to be considered at the Community & Amenities meeting scheduled on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 [*for information*].

The Town Clerk updated that the Appraisal Panel had not met earlier in the day for the reason that the anticipated applications had not been received from the submitting groups by the deadline. An alternative date for the Appraisal Panel to meet and consider the recommendations to be put forward to the Community & Amenities Committee will be coordinated in due course as soon as the applications and supporting papers have been received. Thereafter the next scheduled Grants Appraisal meeting is arranged for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2024.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

33. Worcestershire Wildlife Trust /Natural Networks. To confirm final submission of the funding application on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to Worcestershire County Council. The grant award decision has been accepted in full for £15K as at 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024. The Steering Group last met on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to discuss scheduling of the bio diversity and hard scape works. The Copcut pathways part is anticipated to start imminently and the bio diversity aspects for both green spaces will follow on a phased basis until completion by December. A press statement has been written and published dated 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024, including circulation through wider stakeholders. The Town Council project is being profiled as a front runner in the Wychavon area to encourage other Councils to participate in the scheme *[for information]*.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

34. German Twinning Visit to Droitwich Spa – As previously updated Droitwich Spa welcomes a delegation visit from the German Twin Town of Bad Ems from Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May until Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024. This follows the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the German Twinning Charter which was celebrated in September 2023. The visitors will include the Burgermeister of Bad Ems, Uwe Bruchhauser. A full itinerary for the visit has been arranged by the Twinning Association. The Town Mayor Councillor AM Sinton will join for some of the arranged functions. The Annual Twinning Association Meeting will be hosted in the St Richards House Council Chamber *[for information]*.

Councillor AM Sinton commented that he had represented as Mayor during various parts of the arrangements for last weekend's German Twinning Visit. He was pleased to announce that the hosted visit had gone very well including a trip to the Black Country Museum, a Twinning Association Meeting at St Richards House in the Council Chamber and an excellent dinner at the Droitwich Golf Club. The consensus from the Group was that the Twinning Arrangement was very strong between the two Towns. Councillor Sinton conveyed good wishes from the German delegation to Councillor RJ Morris who had visited Bad Ems in the past. Councillor Sinton added that he has plans to visit Bad Ems accompanied by his Consort during the autumn.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

35. Wychavon District Council Community Legacy Grant Opportunities 2024 – Museum and Heritage Centre Application. Pursuant to draft minute reference 232/2023-24 of Full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023, to confirm that the Stage Two (Final application and supporting evidence of public consultation) has been submitted on 22 May 2024. The outcome of the bid is expected by early July. Connected work continues including a full professional survey of the St Richards House Building which has been completed in May to enable Architectural drawings to be taken forward for the proposed designs. This in turn will enable informed estimates to be taken forward for the building work *[for information]*.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

36. D Day 80 Anniversary Event – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The details of the Special Anniversary day are outlined on the attached publicity poster. Arrangements are in course for invited Civic and Community representatives to

participate in the official Beacon Lighting Ceremony to take place at St Augustine’s Dodderhill Church Yard at 9pm on the evening. The Beacon is part of the Official National Network coordinated through the Pageantry Office. *[Publicity Attachment for information with all times]*.

The Town Clerk updated on the weeks arrangements as outlined. Councillor GA Duffy mentioned that he hoped to attend the official D Day 80 Flag Raising and Proclamation at 8.00am on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at St Richards House and gave apologies that he would be unable to join for the Beacon later in the evening, This was for the reason of a prior commitment for the date in his Official Engagements and Capacity as Chairman of Wychavon District Council.

Councillor AM Sinton commented that it was an honour and a privilege for him as Mayor to be invited to light the D Day 80 Beacon for Droitwich Spa and he would be accompanied by Councillor Mrs Christine Bowden as Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Community & Amenities Committee, and by Councillor RJ Morris for his work towards the Adopted Armed Forces Covenant.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

37. Paris Summer Games 2024 – “Good Luck” Messages and Achievements Recognition for Droitwich Spa Olympians & Paralympians – To confirm that a prominent banner has been arranged for display at St Richards House to convey a message of support to local swimmers - Matt Richards and Rebecca Redfern. The Paris Summer Games 2024 begin with the Olympics from 26<sup>th</sup> July and follow with the Paralympics starting on 28<sup>th</sup> August. Achievements will be similarly marked with the Town Centre banner.

In addition, an approach was made to Royal Mail to ascertain any options & protocol to consider painting two Town Centre post boxes gold in recognition of any gold medalling achievements. This is unfortunately no longer possible because the previous initiative was a special arrangement painting 112 post boxes gold in the home towns of the gold medal winners around the UK and Isle of Man, as a feature of the 2012 London Home Olympics.

The Committee are asked to consider any other suitable means for achievement recognition. The status of Honorary Freeman has been suggested and can be considered by the Committee for onward referral and ratification by the Full Council where appropriate – likely to be September.

Councillor RJ Morris suggested different ways to publically recognise the local participants medalling achievements during the Games period. The Town Clerk confirmed that he would investigate options and costs for the St Richards House frontage from the suggestions of gold spotlights, gold painted hanging baskets and gold painted main premises doors. The Town Clerk suggested updating the details for further consideration at the next scheduled Committee Meeting in 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

RESOLVED (1) To investigate costs and feasibility for the St Richards House frontage from the suggestions of gold spotlights, gold painted hanging baskets and gold painted main premises doors. The Town Clerk suggested updating the details for further consideration at the next scheduled Committee Meeting in 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

(2) To consider recognition through conferring the Status of Honorary Freeman for a later date through Full Council most likely in September 2024.

38. Rik Mayall Comedy Festival – Preview Information – The Town Council have been notified that a Community Organising Committee has been set up to recognise the tenth anniversary of the passing of local comedian Rik Mayall in 2025. Planned arrangements currently include a Rik Mayall Comedy Festival taking place from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 with details to follow. A preview and announcement for these arrangements is scheduled from the Organising Committee to take place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 adjacent to the Band Stand in Lido Park.

This preview will be approximately 20 minutes in duration and feature a performance from the Norbury Theatre. The timing will commence from 3.15pm to coincide with the interval period for the scheduled Sunday afternoon band concert. The Band arrangement for that weekend is Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass and they have been notified and are in agreement with the addition of the interval preview showcase by the Comedy Festival Group *[for information]*.

Councillor RJ Morris updated on the preview arrangements for the 9<sup>th</sup> June and mentioned that the plans for Comedy Festival in 2025 had received a lot of interest from the media and wider coverage.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

39. Town Centre Murals - Plans have been recently announced for two new pieces of public artwork on the High Street - at Emm's Haberdashery (leading up to Tower Hill) and The Talbot Public House. Following the recent public consultation, it has been decided that one of the murals will feature the town's history & heritage with a 'Salt' theme, while the other's theme will be more flexible to include iconic Droitwich buildings.

The first meeting of the Steering Group for the Droitwich Spa High Street Art Project took place on Wednesday 8th May. Wychavon District Council and Droitwich Spa Place Board are leading the project, funded through a contribution from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, part of the Government's Levelling up Agenda. Steering Group Members comprise wider stakeholders including Droitwich Arts Network's local artist Rosie Philpott. The objective is to promote local pride by celebrating the history of Droitwich Spa, as well as to improve the aesthetics of the High Street, and present a high quality attraction. The art work should be completed by early 2025*[for information]*.

The Town Clerk updated on the High Street murals project and added that the Place Board had recently resolved to commission two public art murals on buildings adjacent the North Street Industrial Estate on the approach from the Railway Station in the direction of the Town Centre. This location is currently blighted by ASB and graffiti issues and the proposed art work will greatly improve the ascetics for the pedestrian gateway from the Railway Station to the Town Centre. The specification will include anti-graf protective coating for the art work. More details will be provided on design and timescales in due course.

The next wider Steering Group meeting for the High Street murals project is in early July.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

The meeting concluded at 7.02 pm

Chairman of Committee .....  
01 July 2024

Chairman of Council .....  
17 June 2024